

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
NINETY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 182

Introduced by Schimek, 27; Combs, 32; Erdman, 47; Stuthman, 22

Read first time January 7, 2005

Committee: Health and Human Services

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to dental hygienists; to amend sections
2 71-193.15 to 71-193.17, Reissue Revised Statutes of
3 Nebraska; to change provisions relating to authorized
4 functions; to define terms; to harmonize provisions; and
5 to repeal the original sections.
6 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 71-193.15, Reissue Revised Statutes
2 of Nebraska, is amended to read:

3 71-193.15. ~~A~~ Except as otherwise provided in section
4 71-193.17, a licensed dental hygienist shall perform the
5 traditional dental hygiene functions set forth in such section
6 71-193.17 only when authorized to do so by a licensed dentist who
7 shall be responsible for the total oral health care of the patient.
8 ~~The Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and~~
9 ~~Licensure in the conduct of public health-related services may~~
10 ~~authorize a licensed dental hygienist to conduct preliminary~~
11 ~~charting and screening examinations, provide oral health education~~
12 ~~for patients including the teaching of appropriate plaque control~~
13 ~~techniques, and perform or provide all of the duties that any~~
14 ~~dental assistant is authorized to perform.~~

15 Sec. 2. Section 71-193.16, Reissue Revised Statutes of
16 Nebraska, is amended to read:

17 71-193.16. For purposes of sections 71-183 to 71-193.20:

18 (1) General ~~and (1) general~~ supervision means the directing
19 of the authorized activities of a dental hygienist or dental
20 assistant by a licensed dentist and shall not be construed to
21 require the physical presence of the supervisor when directing such
22 activities;

23 (2) Health care facility means a hospital, a nursing
24 home, an assisted living facility, a home health agency, a
25 correctional facility, a tribal clinic, or a public or private
26 school or preschool;

27 (3) Indirect ~~and (2) indirect~~ supervision means
28 supervision when the licensed dentist authorizes the procedure to

1 be performed by a dental hygienist or dental assistant and the
2 licensed dentist is physically present on the premises when such
3 procedure is being performed by the dental hygienist pursuant to
4 section 71-193.18 or the dental assistant; and

5 (4) Public health setting means a federal or state public
6 health facility, community clinic, or other program or agency that
7 primarily services uninsured persons or public health care program
8 recipients.

9 Sec. 3. Section 71-193.17, Reissue Revised Statutes of
10 Nebraska, is amended to read:

11 71-193.17. When properly authorized, a licensed dental
12 hygienist, under the general supervision of a licensed dentist, may
13 perform or a licensed dental hygienist with three thousand hours of
14 clinical practice in no fewer than four of the preceding five
15 calendar years may, in a health care facility or public health
16 setting and without the authorization or supervision of a licensed
17 dentist, perform the following intra and extra oral procedures:

18 (1) ~~Scaling of teeth, including subgingival regions and~~
19 ~~root planing with hand and ultrasonic instruments~~ Oral prophylaxis,
20 periodontal scaling, and root planing which includes supragingival
21 and subgingival debridement;

22 (2) Polish all exposed tooth surfaces, including with
23 ~~motor-driven and hand instruments in the oral prophylaxis~~
24 ~~procedure, including polishing amalgam restorations;~~

25 (3) Conduct and assess preliminary charting and screening
26 examinations and indexing of dental and periodontal disease;

27 (4) Perform brush biopsies;

28 (5) Perform pulp vitality testing;

- 1 ~~(4) Periodontal probing and charting;~~
2 ~~(5) Gingival curettage;~~
3 ~~(6) Place and remove periodontal dressings;~~
4 ~~(7)~~ (6) Remove sutures;
5 ~~(8)~~ (7) Provide preventive measures, such as the
6 application of fluorides, sealants, and other recognized topical
7 agents for the prevention of oral disease;
8 ~~(9)~~ (8) Provide impressions for study casts;
9 ~~(10)~~ (9) Apply topical ~~desensitizing~~ and subgingival
10 agents;
11 ~~(11)~~ (10) Provide radiographic exposures;
12 ~~(12)~~ (11) Provide oral health education, including
13 conducting workshops and inservice training sessions on dental
14 health; for patients including the teaching of appropriate plaque
15 control techniques; and
16 ~~(13)~~ (12) Perform or provide all of the duties that any
17 dental assistant is authorized to perform; and
18 (13) Prescribe, apply, or dispense antimicrobial rinses,
19 fluorides, and other anticariogenic agents.

20 Sec. 4. Original sections 71-193.15 to 71-193.17,
21 Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.